

# ADMIRAL M'CULLY'S RUSSIAN WAIFS THRIVING HERE

Wonders Worked in Less Than Half a Year  
With Seven Youngsters Naval Officer Rescued in the Crimea---Bachelor Guardian Has Devised Strict Regulations for Their Work and Play

**B**RINGING up children hardly is a task that would be selected by the average person for an active Rear Admiral in the Navy and a bachelor at that. Yet Newton A. McCully, "Fighting Mac" his gobs call him, has undertaken that task and so far has made a wonderful success of it. Newspaper readers will recall that early this year the Admiral returned from the Black Sea bringing with him seven Russian war waifs, the oldest twelve and the youngest three. Ellis Island red tape held up the admission of the youngsters for a day or so, but finally the children were permitted to accompany the Admiral to his home in Washington.

Six weeks ago, when the capital began to feel its usual summer hot spell, Admiral McCully sent the youngsters to his mother's home in Anderson, S. C., a most salubrious climate. How they are thriving under the rules and regulations laid down by their discipline loving foster father is graphically shown in the two photographs and in the subjoined story from *The New York Herald's* correspondent in Anderson, who saw and talked to the children and their mentors within the week.

**P**ARAPHRASING a famous wartime charity slogan, the people of Anderson, South Carolina, are calling Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully "the greatest father in the world." At the home of his mother, Mrs. Carrie McCully, in Anderson, the seven little Russian kiddies which the naval officer and bachelor of fifty-three brought with him from Sebastopol six months ago are being reared under his direction as children in America have seldom been reared before.

Homeless waifs they were when Admiral McCully decided to adopt them in Russia last winter, made so by the war's ruthless devastation in their native land. Now they are as neat, bright and happy as any American children, and cannot be distinguished from American children by a stranger in a crowded street.

## Regulations Govern Their Lives Even Down to Playtime

A daily programme, every minute of which is devoted to work, play or rest, is observed as readily by the children as any schedule the Admiral ever laid down for sailors on land or sea. During the remainder of the summer, which time is to be spent in Anderson, this same programme is to be followed.

The Admiral likes the plan, his relatives like it, and the children like it immensely. Sixteen typewritten pages of rules and regulations governing the rearing of the children have been written out by Admiral McCully, and are being followed carefully by Miss Vita Patrick, niece of the Admiral, and the Russian governess the Admiral has employed for the children.

Each morning, according to the rules, gymnastic exercises form the first thing on the schedule for each of the children, much like the navy's setting up drill. A cold bath follows, and "all hands" are ready for breakfast.

Breakfast, the Admiral has decided, is to consist of cereal, eggs and milk. As the cereal, the Admiral especially recommends hominy, having been brought up on it in the same place where these children are now spending the summer months. A light luncheon for the kiddies is prescribed by

the Admiral, consisting chiefly of Russian brown bread and buttermilk. Dinner is served each evening at seven, at which meal the children may have vegetables of their choosing, meat and a dessert. The drinking of water with meals is forbidden, but milk and cocoa may be served.

## Daily Chart for Behavior, With Rewards of Red Stars

A daily chart is kept by Miss Patrick and the Russian governess, and the tots are graded according to the manner in which they perform their duties. Red stars on the chart indicate that duty has been well performed, and the child receiving the greatest number of red stars during the month is awarded a gold star, which he or she wears. For one hour daily the Russian governess teaches lessons in Russian and for another hour Miss Patrick gives lessons in English. They are making surprising progress in their books and each has learned many English words. The older children are able to play with American children and to hold rather lively conversations with them.

The people of the progressive little Southern city are astonished at the remarkable growth of the children during the few months since Admiral McCully first took them there for a visit to his mother's home. All except one has gained greatly in weight and every one has grown taller.

The youngest, aged three, has grown exactly three inches within as many months, according to the health charts, which are carefully kept. Every one has been taught to swim and they are learning American customs rapidly. American games, however, hold no appeal for them as yet, and they are permitted to play Russian games and dance the Russian folk dances, in which they take great delight.

Members of the Admiral's family say that Admiral McCully recently told them that he grows more thankful daily that the children are here in America instead of starving in Russia. Mrs. McCully, the naval officer's mother, takes more pride in the children than many mothers take in those of their own flesh and blood, and she believes that they all will be very successful in business or the professions when they grow up.

The seven Russian waifs adopted by Rear Admiral McCully photographed as they left Ellis Island last January. Note their worried, peaked expressions and their queer, makeshift costumes.



When first she came to America little Nelno, aged 8, seemed depressed at all times and seldom did a smile light up her pretty face. Now she is easily the happiest and most joyful of the five girls and apparently is almost as happy as the twelve-year-old boy Nicolas, who has realized from the start what the adoption by Admiral McCully has meant to him.

Admiral McCully has assigned regular duties to each of the children, saying in his rules that "He who does not work has no right to eat." He pays them on a regular schedule by the month, ranging from \$1.50 to twenty-five cents. With the money the children may do as they like, but when one places any amount on deposit in a savings bank the Admiral adds a similar amount.

## Imposes Fines When Necessary To Maintain Proper Discipline

The tasks assigned to each child indicate their duties. Nicolas, age 12, is gardener and furnace man; Luidmila, 11, is assistant housekeeper; Anastasia, 10, is assistant cook; Nelno, 8, is assistant nurse; Feader, 4, is first door maid; Ninotchka, 5, is second door maid, and Tolntchka, 3, is messenger.

Punishment in any form is strictly forbidden by the naval officer, the children being fined when punishment is deserved. The time for rising daily is 7 o'clock and for retiring is 8 at night. The routine schedules for Sundays and holidays give the children considerable more time for rest and play. Among other remarks made by the Admiral in his sixteen page booklet regarding courtesy are these:

Good manners will be taught by the use of good manners.  
Try to help others and they will help you.  
Be patient and you will get something you want.  
The children go to Sunday school each Sunday morning. Frequently they entertain



The seven Russian children adopted by Admiral McCully after six months in America, with good food, loving care, careful living and with American clothes. Note their filled out faces, happy expressions and generally well kept appearance.

friends of the family on the McCully lawn by Russian song and folk dances, charmingly sung and beautifully executed.

The Admiral's niece, Miss Patrick, who has been helping him with the children in Washington, has learned enough of the Russian language by talking with the children to converse fluently with them, and this enables her better to help them in learning English.

Admiral McCully plans to come to Anderson from Washington the latter part of this week, at which time the final court proceedings which will make the children full-fledged South Carolinians are to be completed. Ernest F. Cochran of Anderson is guardian ad litem of the children, but they will become Admiral McCully's legally when these proceedings are finished. The children are to retain their given names, the Admiral has decided.

## Not to Grow Up in Idleness, But Still Have Time to Play

That his wards should grow up in idleness is not the plan of Admiral McCully, and in this his relatives here concur heartily. However, the Admiral knows well the old adage regarding "All work and no play" and has been careful in his list of rules to provide ample time for pleasure and recreation.

The children are to be taken back to Washington in the fall, there to spend the winter months at Admiral McCully's Washington home. Washington, the children say, is a City Beautiful, and they are frankly fond of it. Likewise they are fond of America, and the older ones in their quaint way are trying to show their appreciation to the Admiral, his mother and his relatives for their kindness to them.

The children have seen New York and one or two other cities of the North and East, and they say that their opinion of American cities is good. They seem to be very fond of Anderson and of the people here, who are making them the idols of the town.

# "Baby Bill" Presents a Sweeping Challenge of Suffragists to Congress

**L**ADY ASTOR, Member of Parliament, American born and popular because of her democratic ways in her native land despite her expatriation, recently caused a furore in the House of Commons by a vehement appeal for the passage of a bill that provides maternity benefits.

Her plea brings to mind the fact that pending in our own Congress is a somewhat similar measure that has aroused women's societies almost as much as did suffrage. The "baby bill," so-called, has focused nationwide attention, and the accompanying articles explain just why.

By LORA KELLY.  
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**L**EGISLATIVE war has been declared over babies. Indications are already apparent that one of the hottest battles ever waged in Congress will take place when the "baby bill," popularly known as the Sheppard-Towner bill, comes up for action. This measure provides for the public protection of maternity and infancy, authorizing Federal aid to the States for this purpose.

It is not a new proposal. It was first introduced to our national lawmakers about four years ago, when it developed that over 200,000 babies and more than 20,000 mothers are lost each year from causes due to childbirth.

Many observers attribute the present intense interest in the bill directly to woman suffrage. They regard it as a test of the new influence in our electorate and the first sweeping challenge this element has flung to Congress since the winning of the vote.

Singularly enough, its strongest opposition comes from a group of women, anti-suffragists, who say they are fully in sympathy with the end desired—that of alleviating human suffering—but do not agree with the methods proposed by the "baby bill."

The bill is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, of which Senator William S. Kenyon is chairman. Hearings have been completed, and when it is reported out of this committee the heavy artillery will be loosed on the Senate floor.

## Measure to Aid Mothers Has Stirred Bitter Opposition Among Women and Between Lawmakers---Both Sides Approve the Aim to Reduce Infant Mortality but Differ as to Methods

amendment is merely a pretext, designed to nullify the original measure.

With the exception of the amendment, this is substantially the same bill which passed the Senate in the previous session. It was reported to the House, where elaborate committee hearings were held, but its progress was cut short by the adjournment of Congress. The Senatorial hopper received it at the beginning of this session when Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas reintroduced it. Preliminary skirmishes at the committee hearings, now completed, showed that each side is "loaded for battle." Statistics were hurled back and forth, and an occasional bit of sentiment crept in, and sometimes the affair resolved itself into a debate over the meanings of words.

## States Must Appropriate Funds Equal to Federal Contributions

Briefly, the bill aims to save lives of mothers and babies during the period of childbirth. In order to accomplish this result it provides for an appropriation first of \$150,000 for each year, \$10,000 of which shall be paid to each State annually. An additional sum of \$1,000,000 is asked, to be apportioned among the States in the proportion which their population bears to the total population of the United States, not including outlying possessions. The State is required to set aside a sum equal to the apportioned amount before Uncle Sam will pay over his share.

The money is to be used to disseminate "popular, non-technical instruction" in hygiene and "related subjects" to mothers before and after the birth of their babies. This instruction is to be given through channels that may already exist, such as visiting nurses or the child welfare bureaus. The whole proposition heads up to the Children's Bureau in Washington, which is charged with carrying out the provisions of this act.

The chief of the Children's Bureau as executive officer is authorized to form an advisory committee, consisting of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service and the United States Commissioner of Edu-

cation. Provision is also made for arrangements with any educational institution for extension courses by qualified lecturers.

Official endorsements of the measure have been made by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations, Women's National Democratic Committee, League of Women Voters, Association of Collegiate Alumnae, National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Council of Jewish Women, National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association, Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Association of Deans of Women, National Women's Association of Commerce, National Consumers' League, National Organization for Public Health Nursing, National Child Welfare Association, National Council of Women, Service Star Legion, American Child Hygiene Association, Woman's Foundation for Health, National Women's Trade Union League, Life Extension Institute of New York and the Superintendent's Department of the National Education Association.

President Harding specifically commended it in his first message to Congress. Both the great political parties, through endorsement on the part of their women's committees, have commended it. That this action does not reflect the true spirit of the great parties, however, is the stand taken by Mrs. Mary G. Kilbreth of Hampton, L. I., president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. Mrs. Kilbreth regards the bill as dangerous because she believes it to be a socialistic measure.

"This so-called welfare programme was an issue at both the political conventions," she told the Senate committee at the first of the three hearings. "I would say that equal pressure was brought to bear on both of them. The Republicans did not mention this bill at all, because they did not wish to endorse its paternalism."

"I recognize that the cost is not the controlling argument, but certainly this bill would increase the taxation of the country. The chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the debate in the Senate admitted

frankly that this appropriation was only an opening and we would simply be putting the camel's head under the tent! I do not believe that we should now give consideration to any paternalistic measures, in view of our present oppressive taxation."

Mrs. Kilbreth spoke of the birth control movement, which she claimed would find means of spreading its propaganda through the agency of this act if it were passed. "I do not impugn the motives of all the women who are back of this bill," she continued. "In New York city, which is the only place that I pretend to speak of, the birth control movement was waged chiefly among the young girls in the high schools. The statement was made that it was simply a movement looking toward free love."

"Do you mean to say this bill is aimed to promote free love?" she was asked by Senator Kenyon, chairman of the committee.

"With some of the proponents of this bill there is a lurking motive of that kind," she replied. "These non-technical advisers are not doctors or nurses, so if it goes through you would have an extraordinary propaganda system. This is simply an inference and not a matter of proof as yet. I simply want to suggest there is an opportunity to spread this propaganda."

Other organizations which sent representatives to protest against the bill were the Massachusetts Civic Alliance, Boston; the Citizens Medical Reference Bureau, the Massachusetts Anti-Suffrage Association, the Woman Patriot, official organ of the anti-suffragists, and the Public Interest League of Massachusetts.

Senator Sheppard said the plan is to be carried out through the States' health agencies, through advisory committees which

shall be selected by the State agencies. These are to be composed of citizens who desire to serve and to establish a community centre where the services of public health nurses are available. "There is nothing compulsory about it," he added.

## Mrs. Park Says It Is Most Important Measure Before the Congress

Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president of the League of Women Voters, is a strong advocate of the bill. She characterized it as one of the most important before Congress.

"With regard to the matter of birth control," she said, "nothing further from the purpose of the bill could possibly be imagined. For one thing, it has received the endorsement of the National Catholic Welfare Council, which, of course, is one of the organizations opposed to anything that savors of birth control."

"Now, as to the case of propaganda being carried on in the schools of New York city, I cannot answer that. I do not know whether any person ever put up any poster on birth control in a New York school, but I cannot see that that has anything to do with this bill. We do not look upon it as tending toward socialism or subtle propaganda of any kind. We do look upon it as a means of saving life. Woman can have no more important duty than that."

Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the Children's Bureau, has submitted statistics to the committee showing the death rate in various parts of the world.

"As compared with Birmingham, England, and with Stockholm, Sweden, the maternal risk rates in child bearing are much higher in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Washington, D. C., in the order named," was one quotation she presented from William Travis Howard, Jr., statistician at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

"Our total rate in the United States is more than double that for England and Wales," she continued. "Much of it is due to bad conditions that could be remedied."

Dr. Josephine Baker, director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene, New York city, said

in behalf of the proponents of the bill that their contribution was on the eminently practical side.

"New York city has a bureau of child hygiene and a system of child hygiene which have resulted in giving New York the lowest maternal mortality from preventable causes, not only of the large cities of the nation, but also of the large cities of Europe."

"We have for years carried on a system of maternity protection. By that I do not want to be quoted as saying in any way that we have any compulsory maternity work. We never canvass for it at all. We have succeeded in the last ten years in reducing our mortality rates from 144 per 1,000 to 85 per 1,000 births."

"Of the women we have had under care the death rate among the mothers is just exactly one-half of those not supervised. The death rate of the babies during the first month of their existence is one-half of what it was formerly."

"The bill is almost identical with the type of work we have done in New York. And we have not done it on a small scale by any means. We have 135,000 babies born in New York city every year, and the total population is six million people, which is larger than that of the State of Massachusetts. We have 60,000 babies under our care each year, and the mothers come to us voluntarily."

Dr. Baker emphatically denied the imputation that socialistic or birth control propaganda would enter into this type of work or that it would in any way infringe upon the doctors' rights.

Dr. Baker felt that it was a reasonable estimate to say that we could save 15,000 women and 100,000 babies a year if this bill became a law.

Dr. Richard A. Bolt, representing the American Child Hygiene Association, spoke in behalf of the bill.

"In England the infant mortality was reduced during the war, due very largely to the stimulus of governmental effort," said he. "When we know that we can save at least 40 or 50 per cent. of these women by careful obstetrics and clean hands and by proper instructions it seems to me to be worth doing. If we had 200,000 calves die in this country from hoof and mouth disease saving measures would be instituted very quickly. Certainly we must also believe in the health and the saving of the mothers and babies of the country!"